# *American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection*

### *Part 1: Missionaries*

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## The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers,
## 1921-1980

### *Series I*

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

### *Folder Description:*

Correspondence,
September 24, 1936–December 29, 1936

**Box Number:** 2

**Folder Number:** 18

Ch'ing Cheng Pu

Sept 24, 1936

Dearest Mumsie dear & all --

It has been about ten days since I wrote to you from Tsingtao. We've been to two places now. This is the second one. It was wonderful to go to the little church dedication & see what that little group had accomplished. We were there just a week - It was at the busy time of fall harvest but a couple of days of rain gave us a couple of full days of time for meetings. Saturday we came by Hwo Li Chuang, Miss Fan's home, on the way here. It was nice to see them all - had not seen them since June. Mrs. Fan took us to see "our harvest" - Seemed funny. Miss Hwo has a little over a mu of land.

3. We do something with it. This fall they will plant wheat & when that is harvested in June plants beans. That is the plant rotation order — sweet potatoes might be added the next year. Funny to have a bit of land to think about eh! My land this year had in proportion more millet than Miss Huo's. We've had fun over this.

We came on to this place in the evening after a good meal there at Mrs Tan. Shed put the straw mattress out to sun two days & fixed such a nice clean bed in the west room. We had a sleep — such a sleep - for that is the most quiet place — in the world almost -

2, & I have my $\frac{8}{10}$ of an acre —
This is our first harvest of
millet. My land was planted
& harvested by a man on the
basis of dividing half of the
crop. He furnishes the seed &
does the work — my half was
about 15 + more bushels. These are
Irimo bushels not as big as
our there near — Each bushel
now sells for 67 ¢ so I've
$10 at least from my bit of
land. From that must come
some watchman's fees & taxes.
It when divided is on the stalks
Mrs. Fan dried & threshed it
for her part of that the dried
stalks, good to sell for animal
food or fuel were hers —
This way she has something
for her part in it.
She has ours put in a
willow woven bin till

4]. It was so nice to go there. We came on here. The church here is a problem. The land & house were given by an old Christian & church built by some money from mission. He was to live in it till death. Two families of near relatives living near here these last few years divided their estate & the old father & mother moved into the church! Now these several years the second son has put his hay stacks in the courtyard & filled up the church with his bins etc. He has been gambling a lot & need not say that they've not only not had church services but kept folks from coming.

5] When we came before the old father tried to keep us from having meetings at night & cursed some of those who came — So you see how much of a Christian he is — They were still in that end of the church then. It has been two years now & they'd even filled it up more. We wrote them early to give them time to move. Last winter the old father went out to hunt the gambling son, fell, & has been paralyzed since, When the letter came he said "those girls couldn't make him leave not even "the Lord" could make him leave". The family found it inconvenient to care for him here so, inspite of protests, carried him out —. So when we came it was far beyond our hopes

7]. We knew it was a busy time -
we've only had night meetings -
We came especially to get
hold of the church at least
for a time - if there was
nothing else accomplished.
No matter where we go now
days are very busy + women
on threshing floors till long
after dark. It just seemed
Christ is thousand miles
away from here - Last night
there was more of an awaking
The second son hasn't darkened
the door yet. This is the
most pitiful of all our church
area - one other in Pingtu
about equal but at least
better than this. God will
not leave it I believe tho
for His name's sake + the
sake of the non-Christians
here - but seems that the

to see the place all emptied out! — with a freshly scrubbed odor — The next day the rest of the little group (a few old ladies) came in, They were all exclamations at the sight of it emptied out! Sin Sin! This family surely have had great grace of God poured into ~~their~~ life the son (now gambling) educated by church money + been H.S. principal many years — to be like this now. His old father at last has been a bit conscious of sin. We went to see him + he said, "God is punishing me"! It isn't punishment yet — it is God trying to awaken his conscience to bring him to repentance to avoid eternal punishment! He surely is in a critical state

8] second son is the Key to the situation & he's rather hopeless but God will deal with him in *His time*! Had a nice time with an old lady this a.m. a life full of bitterness & poverty — rather weak in faith but *hopeful* of sometime reaching Heaven — Had nice time with her & another who came in to talk. We're surely in the midst of a training in patience. I declare this cook the more he is taught the more befuddled he does seem to become. He isn't *likable* to begin with & does seem just to rub one cross ways all the time besides his stupidity — It does me

9] really have little of Christ's
love I have in me. Before
have at least been able to
like those so near + it
is easier to be nice to those
you like. But that is not
Christ's standard he died
for the unlovely + unlikable
+ loved us when we were just
as unlovely as could be + we still
are stubborn + unlike Him.
Spiritually how stupid we are.
What is faith + dependence
on God?, What is obedience?
I'm just as dumb spiritually
as he is in things! My tone
of voice never in my life has
had such an edge before as it
gets with him - hard as I
fight it + constantly pray
for love. Miss Tan has
had the burden of him
most tho - for lots of Chinese

11] From here Miss Hua is going to
Tsingtao. Her mother hasn't
been well, the victrola
suddenly refused to run,
& this busy time is just too
much — so I'll go back with
Miss Faw for a week. Summer
has been *full* & I've really
not rested enuf. I'm wrong
in that. Next summer at
whatever cost I must get
a good rest before the
fall country work begins.
I've been *very* weary this
week — of course being
able to let down & rest
has added to it — but it
isn't fair to get so tired —
I'll rest at Miss Faws &
get some letters off. I want
to write Mrs. Burkhart of
the church dedication &
a copy for Roseburg & Teaneck
Then we go to a church where

10] food making etc I don't know - She's had a real test of patience too. Guess we all needed it or we'd not be having it. Eventually he will be going I expect - but I have a feeling that we will have to have victory ourselves before we can get out of the millstone. I'm afraid he's not capable of appreciating heart spent on him & to let him go will be to make an enemy who will only feel he's been abused - & that we're too particular. He's had to be taught everything - comes from a home not so long ago a beggar's home & didn't even recognize an apple - went to soak some clothes in the toilet - & of course loads of funny things! Pray for us to be patient!

12 They want to carefully hear of the "Lord's Returning". The greatest part of fall rush will be over. The bean harvest is good this year & while all are praising God for it — & it means so much to the country. It is the meat & butter substitute for country diet as well as some means of getting cash, it means a slack daytime for us.

Honey, am sorry that your hopes of Lizzie's return were blasted but still when one has gone to be with Him, & she went so easily & quickly & from where she wanted to be buried — it isn't right to say sorry. Some suffer so long & so terribly. She surely was graciously blessed to go so easily. May He provide another crony Mumsie dear — Surely it won't be long! before we are all with Him.

13] Miss Huo sends her love to you & Mrs. Lau all sent their love — I'll put some more to this later on —

Sunday Eve. Just dusk. Had pretty good attendance at the two services today — but the busy harvest makes difference.

Had a picturesque experience yesterday. We went to a new temple just built last spring. We'd hoped for an opening to preach but all busy in the fields looked as if we'd taken our big gospel poster in vain. The temple had women-priests & when we asked her about the new big idols - she asked You too worship gods? That was our chance — Miss Huo began & the little crowd that had followed us in were soon lost in listening to her. We put up the poster on the

My! those temples make one shudder at the blasphemy — there was one temple to God - "The Old-Man-in-Heaven" that is the literal term for God - the true God — + there was a gilted idol of a man — called God — How hard hearts are — But I guess it is better to have that much of a god-worshiping heart than the atheists with out any God.

Time now for evening meeting. Miss Huo will go early in the morning.

These days I've written a short play for opening exercise for S.S. or for Young Peoples. I had Roseburg in mind especially but may be usable other places. I've mailed a copy to Roseburg + asked Elnor to

14] new red temple door + there in a most colorful setting we had full half hour of plain preaching right in front of the newly painted idols - They were very large ones - mostly gold washed + bright - with bright red pillars + all! The priestess stood it for ½ hr + then insisted she was too busy so we left! There were two big idols that hadn't had the eye-opening ceremony (they aren't finished have to collect more money to finish them) The eyes of the idol have white-washed over the pupils then when the ceremony is performed it is washed off + after that the idol becomes a god!-

type a few extra copies for
you. I'll send you one later
when I get it copied. But if
she sends you maybe I'll not —
I'll sent Mrs. Burkhardt one, for
the letter due her + she'll send to Board + one to Teaneck
I've no way of getting it typed
out here + haven't much time to copy them
by hand. Mrs. B. may have a
way to get it typed + send you
a copy — I'll write later about
this. Elnar may not use it.
I'd like you to send out ten or so copies
very soon. May not be
usable at all — If this kind
of thing is I'll do some others
later — I'm trying to get in a
form more usable than long
report — tho that can't be done
away entirely —

Thank you so Mummie
for all your love + help
+ May God richly bless +
keep you in His care —

Lovingly, Irene

P.S. Did I tell you that Chiang Kai Shek puts on some kind of formal uniform for his 5-7 hours of daily Bible Study + prayer because he says he gives orders from the "King of Kings"

Kang Chia Chuang
October 17, 1936

Dearest Mummie + all;

Morning service is over + I'll try to write a bit before dinner. Miss Fan is helping cook + I'll write a bit. The air has a real fall tinge this A.M. We had one other quite cold day + night at Yuan Chuang but otherwise it has been lovely. Have worn single garments — I have two layers of single garments — my wool scarf tho is comfy this A.M. Many had on a cotton padded garment this A.M. This place raises cotton + every afternoon they are busy gathering it. This year they are trying American cotton, it is longer fibre + softer than the native cotton. So afternoon meetings we can't hold, only A.M. — 8:30 - 10 — + evening. Many non Christians at nights + a number of pupils of the school come too.

Seem very near civilization here for we are only 1½ mi from a railroad station + there is a post office there — Then in this month out I've had letters twice so see what luxury I'm living in! Then Mr. Coonradt + a Rev Huang who is very fine were at Yuan Chuang on Sunday + I saw some newspapers so I'm up in the world!! ha — Yesterday Rev. Mr. Wu came over from Kaomi with some outside news too. He told us

2) of a very wonderful miracle in Tsinan. That is where Dr. Torrey's son is stationed, Eula. There is a Dr. Yu, one of leaders of Cheeloo University who had some disease he couldn't himself cure, none others there could, They diagnosed it but no remedy. The Peking Medical College at Peiping also said no hope. He was given 3 days! An old Christian woman went to him & prayed for him. Either then, or later I'm not sure of the time, he saw as in a dream one come to him & said, "your disease can be healed in the Precious Blood of Christ" & seemed to take his insides all out & wash in a vessel — He was perfectly healed then. He now is leading in a great revival in Tsinan — in the college & in groups formerly unsympathetic to the revival movement. The Master knows how to break thru men's defenses! Many are praying for Warren & DeEtta that this month God will send someone to them whom they will be willing to hear — like the psychiatrist. A number of church groups here are praying for them. Oh may it be that it is this time.

Yes I love your last letter from Sisters. Warren's may get into some war troubles before they return who knows - but things look to be sliding rather fast that way. Glad Eula & Ray had a couple of weeks at the beach & you some time with Iva at Sisters & at Salem. Bessie coming a lot as usual Nice you'd such a nice summer with all.

Hasn't God answered prayer for China in this Crisis tho! A few weeks ago it was acute indeed

3 Japan seems just insatiable — just calmly ask for about all of China — Chiang Kai-Shek surprised them some by his stiff attitude + now other countries seem to be ready to help China out a bit. Well, what must come for the fulfilling of His will must come but may He restrain the rest of evil. War in Spain + Palestine. Ray what do you think of Dan 11:34 on as fitting into the present puzzle of world affairs? Looks pretty close to a fit to me but I'm not saying.

I haven't seen Earl of course since leaving. He must have gone to Peiping as planned for I had a $1 of Peiping money left I asked him to mail the letter to Betty W. to ask her to buy a seal with it + deliver to him. She sent the seal by mail, said she went to see Earl but he was out. He is likely now on the way south — Hope he comes back next summer. nice to have him there. That is nice Lizzie's clothes fit you so well + are nice. How sweet the Master's provision is for all of our needs. That was thoughtful of her to give them. The coat is black eh, well that suits my christmas gift for you ——.

Please write + thank Miss Smith for me for the $10.00 I'm not sure just yet but surely will try to please Him with the use of it. That is so nice of her to send it for me to spend for her. I enjoy doing it very much. Eula would enjoy very much having her there. Thank her very much. Miss Weber + Miss Eakus (remember Edith's cousin + that maiden lady who lives with her) each sent their $1 each. — They do almost every year.

Mummie mine, thank you so trouble + all of getting reports out. Yes I'm sure there were more – I had 200 printed & kept some 20 here. Remember the time before you said there weren't enuf. So you've moved from yours to the warm room. Fine that you can have the warm room. You mention Mary F. coming again. Did she write to come or you write her. May the Master's will be done for both. If she comes I do hope it will be all right & happy for both. – For her to come & not be happy would be too bad. If she is happy that is fine for her to be with you. In Christ why shouldn't an aunt & niece be able to live together to God's glory! His power surely can overcome personalities! "But you keep the warm room that is my sentiment —. Whatever – she is younger than you & all! Be sure to do it," Give her a big welcome from me!!"

I received this enclosed add from the S.I.M. Do you want a few? I'd like several – one at least. Their letter tells of one out station with just a couple of women. They had stayed on & were caring for some, hundred wounded soldiers. Their supplies gave out & they were cut off 2 days trip from the Italian line. One day a plane flew over & asked who they were etc & said to send information the two days trip to army. They did & in a few days a plane came along – flew low & dropped bundles flour – & medicines. They came on them at intervals till the end. Another time all the evangelists were at the station – others had all gone & fear was taking this group. After earnest prayer Dr. Lambie said, "Have I ever lied to you?" "No," they said. "I believe I

5] have a message from God for you. Stay here & all will be safe." They accepted it & not one of them was harmed at all. Word comes of renewed persecution up in Manchukuo of Christians. Rev Lin had just come back about a year, he said he says Christians buried alive just with the heads left out in the persecution before he came away. Surely, the Master's heart is torn with suffering over the trials of His children as well as their sins.

There is a woman here who became a Christian the last time we were here. She has one son & his wife. For some time, then her husband hadn't spoken to her. After her conversion he drove her out. She lives off in a wee house alone – fortunately her son secretly brings her grain & flour etc. My! you should see her face – it just literally shines. At her conversion she was healed of a chronic disease – She was ill then but so well now & wonderfully victorious in it all!

The Christians were telling of God's grace & protection during the years. Some soldiers came there & they had to borrow & empty out places for them to live. They went to the deacon to borrow the church. He couldn't but say yes, but he said, this isn't an ordinary building – it is a place to worship God & very holy. People can't live in it ordinarily – But I can't say no to you. If you feel to live there is all right then go ahead. Evidently he reported to the officer & it was possible he'd known something of Jesus – anyway he borrowed other places & didn't come into the church.

Another time bandits moved in & lived off the place 1½ mo. Mrs. Kuo had twenty in her house – They were

6) going to leave & were recruiting all able bodied men to push barrows for them. It was Sunday Mr & Mrs. Kuo were kneeling in prayer in the house having service when an officer came in — they went on with their prayers & then the officer came in gave Mr. Kuo one look — "No, you won't do" & left. Mr Kuo didn't know why nor for what, but he was just 47 & strong & husky - He went out & there they had 60 & 70 year old men conscripted but he was passed over.

The cook must go to R.R. with this so must close. Mon eve. the Lord took a hand for us & the cook. He was just utterly impossible. That night he was really converted I believe. His mother used to be most evidently demon-possessed at times. Here it turned out that Satan was just binding this boy, making him stupid to get him sent off. For several nights Satan had visibly appeared to him & a new convert sleeping there & they both were too frightened to sleep. After we knew of it all prayed especially for them. That night Christ just freed him — ~~Tuesday~~ he was a different person entirely! Hard to believe he was the same one - Has all this week done very well! He said Satan often came to him & he felt he'd been in a maze all these weeks - he acted so surely but we didn't suspect that — Satan uses the method to hold each one that that one will receive - He says, the cook, he's never been so sure before of Christ's presence — he is so happy & before just looked ready to weep. Praise Him too for showing me that His love for others comes too when one sees that it too is entirely a gift of Christ not ones own or from one's effort to love — I just got to end off that & in just accepted Christ's love for others as His gift to me & now I have love for this cook - now. How wonderful our Saviour is — Must close - much much love to all — Yours - Irene

Monday P.M. Dearest Mumsie
October 5—

Well, we're all washed up & about all packed up to go tomorrow if nothing happens — I want to add a note to yours & a few more to the Salem letter. Sorry I've been so late answering hers. She knew Margie very well & can't say enuf nice things about her — She was Margie's teacher in Junior Dept at S.S. If she didn't get one of the last reports will you see that she gets one — have you any?

Here it is Wed. We are at Yuan Chuang — Your letter didn't get finished & yesterday we traveled all day — Got off about 7:30 a.m. The road was a narrow one — carts with two wheels do not go over it often & the bridges were made for wheelbarrows so twice we had to get out. Once they piled up extra stones & by getting cart over by hand got across. Then we came to another bridge over a deep ditch — fortunately they were able to get across it farther down into the ditch & out — This surely did take time. Please excuse that blot — I find I've no eraser either — — We were from 7:30 — 4 (with time out for lunch) coming 50 li 17 miles! funny! You in speedy U.S. will think it mighty slow. But wasn't a bad trip. We found a nice clean shady place by a temple for lunch — Sent the cook into village for tea & cups. We had our lunch in seclusion — — not so easy a thing to do & then some women who'd been watching us from afar came up + soon a little crowd collected + we had a nice talk with them about the gospel. Many hadn't heard before at all. We reached here + after some trouble got old Mrs Hsin called out. The letter of date of coming hadn't come so they weren't so sure when. Expected Miss Hwo to be here but am not sure why she hasn't come yet. They brought us to the church. It is the oldest in Jimo county - Dr Corbett led in building. It is all brick + inside the rafters + all are very heavy - heavy wood too is used in the benches - One can tell not a very small sum was used in the building. It is nice there are two rooms opening onto church yard that have a little courtyard of their own. That is where we fixed our home. The iron kettle was in the inner room so we hung up a curtain to give cook a passage by our bed to inner room. The wooden bed was too narrow for three but there were two wide long benches - end + end just the length of the bed + just the right height - so we've a grand wide bed. Soon we were all settled - we're so accustomed to it that the suitcase + packages of books soon fit onto a stool or bench our bedding spread out, books, soap dish + mirror on a table - string stretched up for towels + our home is made - "Patience- maker cook" is still doing his job - I'd had some victory over this - but just now was angry with him - caught him washing the big vegetable knife in his

3] wash pan — in the water hid washed in this A.M. Slow — he surely is — "Faith is the victory" — I'm just holding on to the Master. He must give me victory. I was reading the other day that there could be no honey in the meal offering — that offering which represents Christ's characteristics — & the note that natural sweetness of disposition apart from grace (represented by the honey) could not be thought of as part of Christ's character — I see now that it isn't the same as having 'God's love' in ones heart! For God's love loves the one that ones natural disposition doesn't just jibe with. That's what I need more of. So mere natural sweetness can't represent Christ — He had that but more than that.

Hope we can get the cook hustled around enuf to get over 8 li to Ching Yang to mail this, it has been, too long even so — Have a pair of slipper soles — maybe he can buy some wool & I'll do a pair of slippers for cool mornings & evenings —

Last night there was a good crowd — most of the Christians were here & only Christians — The women here — even the old ones all can read the Bible & so it is a great joy to lead them. It still is busy but will soon be over. The women will come in the afternoon & all the group at night So that leaves mornings free a bit — for a few days yet — They've had prayer meeting every morning except at the busy time. Opened church at barely light this A.M. & a woman had just come to pray. This busy time Christians come when they've time for prayer + go. There were four or five maybe at intervals this A.M.

Old Mrs. Hsun, 75 yrs. old, is preparing noon meal for us today — the cook went to help her — hope he won't spoil it for her — It is sweet of her to do it — for His sake of course.

Elder Chiao's son just came over from Ch'eng Yang to see if we were here, if all right, + not in need of anything. we've had a visit with him. Soon time to go so will close this - write some more to the enclosed letters + have this off.

There is a mountain (high hill) not far from here call Horse mountain. We circled it yesterday — there are two humps like a saddle with western horn - I guess that is the reason for the name.

Dear Ones - Bye — may God richly bless the Oregon City Church this year as never before - Give you strength Eula + Ray for all the burdens. You didn't hear whether Elisabeth went to school someplace or not?

Mummie do you need anything? Be sure to get it - Don't be cold during winter now coming on — Much love to all of you, greetings to friends there + thank all for praying for us + all

Bye Mummie mine, I love you! — Irene

Tsingtao
November 5, 1936

Dearest Mumsie Mine;

Am at home for a few days getting off to Wang Chia Tán. So will be here over Sunday. We were out for about seven weeks & had fine trips all along. I wrote you last from Kàng Chia Chuang. The group there had a great new blessing & were especially burdened for the young people & children. One young woman had just been longing to tell stories maybe for children or witness somehow. It came to me to have her get children together before church for stories like S.S. — & when I spoke to her it was just what she'd been praying to do. They hadn't had S.S. just a general church group. May it be a blessing. They raised 14.90 — for a new church bell. We've gotten it since coming

in. Mr. Fan, of Post Office, who does so much to help us — did the running around & today the station writer, my former teacher, is mailing it to them. Hope they'll be glad over it. I'm sure they will — a nice brass one & has a fine tone —

Now dinner is over & cook off to carry the bell for Mr. Chi to the R.R station — can send it by parcel ticket as they are near the R.R. Have washed my hair since dinner, have it up on combs & my shoes all are "stinky" with shoe polish! Today has seemed like home day — Sat while teaching. Have put away summer clothes & pulled out my winter clothes. Really they are like new — for I wear my foreign winter clothes so little — my coat looks just like new — style likely not so new — but I'm glad to have them in fairly decent condition tho haven't kept up in styles, May be in condition to be made over to go home —

6 Tsi Yang Road
Monday Nov 23

No.

Dearest Mumsie:

You'll be surprised to be getting a letter from me in Tsingtao again. Well surprises come in life. — Truly we can propose but God disposes & often disposes of the plans we've made. We were getting ready to go to Wang Chia Tan when Miss Tan became very ill — after a few days of fever & suffering She consented to have a doctor & he was sure it was typhoid. Later tests showed tho it to be paratyphoid. That has been enuf. At first it seemed best to go to hospital but the retired Baptist Dr. — whom we called couldn't treat at the German hospital where we could go for $3 a day — but if we'd go to Lutheran where he could treat her with extra nurse & room & Dr. it would have been some $10.00 per day — & after a few days — tho it began so very bad — turned to lighter form. He finally said best to be here & I be nurse.

SHIRAUME

Dr. Upston is a retired missionary, preaching here some. He is a fine Christian & has prayed almost every time he's been here. He said one of the first days "It looks pretty serious but one can never tell when working with God how thing will turn". — meaning might expect a miracle any time! He asked about family so I guess it came out in his saying I was being a good nurse & asked if I'd studied nursing. I answered that my Dr. brother & sister side tracked me from that — then it came out that Warren isn't a Christian. He said, "Well, I'll begin praying for him". The next day he came he said, "Well, I'm sure our prayer for your brother was heard". He's been so nice in discussing everything with me. His finally deciding that she stay here was much to Miss Fair's delight. She hadn't wanted to go at all.

3] The station members tho were quite united that I shouldn't take the responsibility if it were real typhoid & if it were going to be a serious case. Ralph C. had such a serious case last year even in the hospital it was all Marie could manage. So they were sure I shouldn't do it But after the change & getting an amah to help me - to get up at nights they were satisfied,

Miss Huo is holding a class at Sou Tang - near here - she can go back & forth each day to her home for two weeks - so that doesn't leave us all out the field.

There have been continual chances to witness here - helped Ella G. with student classes a few times & church service yesterday

How strange it seems - being me who doesn't go by routine & always going, to be tied up to a routine of medicines, feedings, bath, bedpans etc - It is very good for me. It has seemed each day a bit unreal - as if it weren't I.

No.
SHIRAUME

4] Well, I want to give the day — with whatever He puts in it — to Him to present as a spotless gift — the willingness to follow Him, joyous willingness + to serve Him in this way just as gladly as to lead a service — This is a big step for me — for I feel there is just no joy like being used to witness for Him — of course this is too, in another hidden way. + it is good for us to be following Him — whether as we've planned or not,

Tues. a.m. Mrs Chen who is here to help lighten the burden is giving Miss Fan a bath + medicine + morning routine so I can get this off. Your letter has been delayed too long. The first few days were just such a rush + a worry, in a way, that I did nothing but the nursing night + day — so yours suffered. Her two brothers are here

5. & have been such a help & so nice to me too. / Mr. Fan who is in the P.O.

No.

yesterday brought me a chicken & apples some days ago. He comes every day to do what he can. I've a few Christmas things to do up & mail — again I'll trouble him. Yesterday a guest came in, one of the village Christians where we were on the last circuit — before we'd gotten fixed for the day — so Kept took her company to drink tea & eat cakes so I could proceed. | Funny life!

I didn't tell you that the pumice came all right. Perhaps I mislead you by saying facial pumice. It is just an ordinary pumice that I want like you sent me only this one is too fine. I've three of these fine ones. Please try again sometime no rush! as this one seems to be

SHIRAUME

sticking together now fairly well, No—that one we tried to find in Chicago is $7. gold & it is only a fine pumice. It is too fine. I'm sorry I can't tell you by number or something. I have one that is *very* coarse & it's too coarse. Perhaps they can show you all of the kinds—they'd know them as hand pumice stones —— & then you pick out a fairly coarse—medium one— As I say no rush, as you have a chance; After Christmas if there are sales on pretty (most any-kind) of Christmas wrapping paper & cord (cord not card (tho I'd like a few packages of cards too)) please buy me a supply. I don't care so much for it to send around your gifts as I do for the station folks here. You might have church women save the used paper for me, from their Christmases if they'd destroy it anyway— I can cut out of big pieces enuf.

7). I decided to buy myself a
present the other day - You'll
No.
laugh when I tell you — I've
been wanting Key rings for sometime
Went out for walks in sun the
other day + bought myself the
present of Key rings large + small
all for 20¢ about 5¢ U.S.
I tried to find that Kind that has
hooks for Keys in a leather fold
but I guess that is one U.S.
article that the Japanese have
overlooked! Anyway I bought
simple little metal rings + am
all fitted up now!

I wrote Warren + Letta a long letter —
funny how one feels one must
write them because they're away
— I guess actually nearer me than
before — I just know that feeling

SHIRAUME

I expect they enjoy letters more too
even tho they weren't at home before.

8] Have enjoyed their cards & letters enclosed.

That is surely a sweet gift of the Master to Marguerite & Ed Morrow — a son. Drs. all said she could never have children —— but God is above the Drs. & it is in His plan. They surely do feel it is a gift right from him.

Am glad you saw Elisabeth. Have her come up often. I wonder if she's there with you Thanksgiving. Might be a good use o' even a bit of tithe to keep in touch with her & her in touch with a Christian home. There is so little we can do to make up for Lea's part & that would be well done & worthwhile —
Shill go home Christmas?
Did she get the pajamas & Kimona?

9] That was nice to see them all; Mary may be there by now — Please give her my love, tell her I am still using the curtain + bedspread I bought with her gift + they are most remarkable — never faded an iota + as new looking as ever! I've carried her letter to you for just miles + miles + one from a Mrs. Mac who knew her but so far not answered. It will be so nice if she's there I can just include her!

I too spent one morning making tomato juice for Miss Fan to drink! Did you put lemon in yours? I did.

I'm so proud of you + your Scrap book prize. — Ah it is too bad that alcohol is so getting a hold on women + all — It is just horrible.

SHIRAUME

10] Don't worry about me physically—
I'm well & feel fine now—
No—the victrola is all repaired
& been doing good service $3.50
Mex—did it. Thanks dear you
need not help on it.

Yes how blind we are to things
we don't know. I'd never thought
of the paper from his way of judging
it. Wonder how he likes my new
paper. I'm not sure what I wrote
(This isnt it—but have my Chinese characters on it)
on before. So Boys are grown up!
Oregon City yell leaders! That's
good!

(card)
Had a letter from Mrs Scott of
Roseburg saying she was asking
you for a picture of me for the
Presbyterial Poster. I expect you
haven't any. I'll get some
snaps for her. Just occurs to
me that I can get a print of
the picture, on the report very cheaply.

11] since I have the cut, enuf for each society if they'd like it — Probably not all got the reports; — just a prayer reminder — not to spread my picture — the Presbyterial It is in the spring isn't it? How many societies are there?

I haven't sent Christmas greetings to the churches — but wrote to all that week at Miss Lanis,

Must get Christmas cards addressed while I'm in now + my bed side duties are lighter so when she's well enuf to leave Miss Hus + I can go —

Another unopened village waiting — many — but this one has date set + all.

Ruth has been so wonderful to me — decided to feed me up lest I get too tired so have

SHIRAUME

noon meal with her. This cook & I manage the other meals; I'm keeping him on — he's such a grand mirror !! to let me see how little patience I have etc. When I've had victory over nagging at him & crossness etc. (all of which he calls out of me) then I can let him go. Not that I'm punishing myself — but if I can't get victory by Christ's strength in this situation I have no message for the homes in which the relationships are much harder. So I'm in a training school!

Bye dearest ones — I'll get out for a little walk & mail this. Much love to all of you, & May we all be prepared in heart for a very wonderful Christmas.

Lovingly,

Irene

December 9, 1936
Tsingtao -

Dearest Mummie:

Just a note in my busy days of caring for the sick & having some Bible classes. Isn't God good to let me have those classes in the city with the school girls, in one of the churches & in student church, & teacher's prayer meeting. There is just no happiness like witnessing for Him. These weeks at home have been good for me — good discipline to keep after details & do humdrum work & routine — of which my time has had little before.

Miss Lou's is real typhoid at last & holding on in a characteristic way. She's not

December 9, 1936
Tsingtao —

Dearest Mamie:

I sent a note in my lazy days of waiting for the ship + having some Bible classes. Isn't God good to let me have these classes in the eating with the school girls, in one of the churches in Lutheran church, + teachers prayer meeting. There is just no happiness like witnessing for Him. These weeks at home have been good for me — good discipline to keep after details + do humdrum work + routine — of which my time has had little before.

Mae Home is real [illegible] at last + holding on in a characteristic way. This hat

had such *very* high fever so has
suffered less than some but
is thin & pretty weak. This
week has been fuller — trying
to put more time on her diet
& to think of things to give her —
The cook isn't much help but
he can clean the house rather
respectably & wash more or
less *clean* — irons — oh
we wear the wrinkles —
He's doing better & I'm trying
to keep the knife out of my
tone — (that's something)
& to be patient with him
& I needed to learn patience
evidently! He'll go back to
farming in the spring in the
Haw meantime he's saving & will
have something to help out
his family's need by then.
So — that's that — &
I'll get more patience training
by then. It is hard to get one

3) to go on now into this cold country weather — We've already got this man partly broken in so at least that is that in his favor - & the task of taking another on is too much to contemplate just now - so well on "Status quo". There was an old darkie who defined "Statdus quo" by saying - that just a literary [illegible] for the "the mess you're in."!! Not that we're so bad off!

It was nice to get your letters after an interval - I expect the strike is to blame Two came at once & and on the same day one from Warren. I was surprised & glad to hear - no news of what we want yet in spiritual way but that we must leave to the Master in His Love, knowing that He is far more eager than we for him to come to Him.

Thanks so for getting out all
of the things Laney? At least I
don't let you forget me !!

What a surprise came in
the mail another Union Savings
dividend check — Suppose
Ray got his too. I have signed
the receipt but told them
to get in touch with Ray for
the passbook + certificate
I do not know what certificate
they mean. But this is a final
dividend giving us 24% of prin-
no interest — well, we should
be glad to get that much I
think. Anyway I'm glad to
get this surprise as this all
is — I'd given it all up —
so it seems like a gift ——

I'm so provoked at that English
Co they said they'd received the
rabbit wool + were glad
for the "samples" — I spent
3.50 postage getting one package

to them + they evidently do not think it worth any money. Suggested I send 10 lbs! So that is the delay! Haven't heard from the Montana place yet. If I can sell there it will be better — as postage on a lb is 70¢ as compared with 3.50 to England. This project — to help poor Christians is also a trainer in patience. Hope before long to find a steady market — at least a market —— This sounds like Japan + Italy etc wanting a market!

Rec'd your heart the cake came — the strike to the contrary! I'll not thank you now — It is still at P.O. I'll go for it later but just this much to let you know it is here — My hope miss Fan will soon be able to enjoy it.

6] Well, seems we're scheduled
to have Christmas in Tsingtao
or at least near — we're to
go to Chan Shan a village near
the summer resort to a little
group. Miss Huo will go
this week + I will go as
soon as Dr. says I can leave
Miss Fan with someone — her
sister is here now "Fragrant
Arbutus" — of the engagement
story. That means we'll be
having a part of the day out
there or maybe day before
Christmas out there & Christ-
mas in here. First one in
eight years in town —
I've not wanted to be in
for Christmas before but it
is just as He plans!

I hope you've had the great
peace of God surrounding
you — if the papers there

8] Stella + Naomi + Mr Abbott write
of a fine two weeks there + a won-
derful work of Holy Spirit.
I'm rejoicing with them.

Mother, please ask Roy to
check up on that receipt for the
Union Savings. $287.43. By mistake
I sent it off forgetting without
registering it. I think I should
have sent it to Roy direct but
I sent to the Co. So will you
please have him write
about it — see that they got
good checks + maybe receive
the checks. Thanks.

Must go down town.
Bye dear one will get this
off so you'll not be worried
Much love to you all
+ God keep you in
perfect peace
Irene

1) have reprinted the reports
(as I fear they have) of Japanese
marines landing here this week
on the pretext of protecting
their mills & people. There had
been a small strike in a
suburb but quite under
control & no trouble — as strikes
often are, violent etc. but
they landed the marines — took
a number of officials prisoner
searched a lot & then let
them go next day — now the
Chinese soldiers & they are
face to face out there
but all quiet so far. The
mayor & ~~the~~ the Japanese are
parleying over the situation
but so far all is O. K. Do not
worry whatever the papers say.

Next A.M. Well had a fine
class after all — I had good
the Master is to let me teach —

8] Stella + Jeanne + Mr Abbott write
of a fine two weeks class + a won-
-derful work of Holy Spirit.
I'm rejoicing with them.

Mother, please ask Ray to
checkup on that receipt for the
Union Savings. $287.93. By mistake
I sent it off yesterday without
registering it. I think I should
have sent it to Ray direct but
I sent to the Co. So will you
please have him watch
about it – see that they get
passbook + maybe receive
the check. Thanks –

Must go down town –
Bye dear ones will get this
off so you'll not be worried
Much love to you all
+ God keep you in
perfect peace
Irene

Monday, Dec 29, '36
2 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao

Dear Loved Ones;

Well, Christmas is over + I must get a letter off to my loved ones first before answering the other gifts + letters. Thank you all so much for all of your loving gifts + love that you shower on me! The cake is so good. I have it all stored away in tin cans to keep it but we get it out for guests + special occasions. Miss Hud hasn't taken hers yet + Miss Faw hasn't been able to eat hers so far. Then after ~~that~~ all of that trouble of fixing boxes! I opened one the day before Christmas + then the last one Christmas eve. Thank you so much for your loving gifts. — Later - How full the days are — yet I seem to not be doing so much either - but just no time to write! -

New Year's Eve. See that paper has gotten torn - I've carried this around, up + down stairs etc so long - I surely should have gotten this off before but I'll not weary you by reciting all that has been in these days - but just go on + visit -

Well, being in town the first time since

I have been a member of the station has been quite a change + much like home! I went to Ruths (oh they have just been so wonderful to me these months) for their morning devotions with the servants + reading the Christmas story + singing. They had a lovely tree piled up with gifts - their servants had gifts on it too - so I put mine for them on it. Their (Tewksburys) children all lined up in order of age before the tree sitting on the floor + as Gardner called off each gift it was passed along all five from baby Carol, who was big enuf to quite enjoy Christmas for the first time this year. This part almost made me homesick a bit I could almost imagine being home - well it was lovely. I'd gotten up at 4:30 A.M. - because of being out at Chau Shan village all day before - on Christmas morning to wrap up gifts for the station + fix up our tree. Yes, we had a real tree - funny - the first real tree I've ever bought I have used those tiny artificial trees that we bought for Rutherford table - all the other years remember Mother? The red woolly poinsettas too I'd saw here in town but got them out this year to decorate. It seemed so

3. funny to be decorating a tree — I had only
the tinsel icicles — also of N Y. buying for
the tree — looked very nice but you'd
have laughed at my furry little dog +
wooden rabbit, + balls + toys on my
tree — I did. See Miss Fan's brother's
family are here in Tsingtao, they, + the
sister who is helping care for her + Hsiu
Tzu (in High School here) were all here
in the afternoon for the tree + pao tzu
+ Peking duck! It was a funny old
maid's tree I'll admit but I had
real fun getting them their toys + planning
for them. I was at Ruth's for dinner —
a big turkey — gift of his parents with
all the nice trimmings made a real feast!
Christmas eve there were a number of
carol singers — The Salvation Army Captain
+ wife + little girl serenaded up here on
our hill — he played several pieces on
such a wonderful silver-toned cornet
that rang out on the clear night! The
girls in the Hostel — where Ella Gernhart
is in charge came + later teachers of the
Girls school carrying lighted candles.
Some started out about 5 A. M. also.
That made me feel like Christmas. The
Fans had such a nice time + how we did
eat the pao tze, I wish you'd have been
here to eat the duck — The duck was a gift,

4] It is cut in small pieces + wrapped up in a flour pancakes rolled very thin – with onion + a sweet soya bean sauce + eaten in the fingers. It is most delicious! – one of Peking's famous dishes! Then Mary had sent Miss Fan a lovely gelatine pudding covered with whipped cream + we ate that + candy! The kiddies loved the tree + all. Fang Mei was Santa (not quite regular in appearance but a good substitute – in a white sheepskin coat turned with fur out + tall pointed paper dunce cap + cotton whiskers put on with flour paste! The little girl (2nd) cried at sight of him! After this party was over, all of the missionaries who cared to went to community church for high tea, sandwiches, salad, ice cream, cake – a tree + presents (just little things) followed by carol singing. It was a lovely day really + fully dispelled all of my memories of that language school Christmas (which had remained as the only really unhappy Christmas I ever recall + it need not have been really) On coming out from the carol-singing the town was aboom with what seemed to be firecrackers but not a few thought that it might be the Japanese – until we knew that it was in celebration of General Chiang Kai Shek's release. My! the town went wild! That was the release after a long time of tenseness. The Japanese marines landing + the uncertainty of that;

5] followed before they were all away by the capturing + holding of China's mainstay - General Chiang Chieh Shih by one of the generals under him - Chang Hsüeh Liang. It was all the more despicable because Chang had practically given the three northern provinces to Japan without consent of gov't etc. Popular opinion was high against him but Chiang Kai Shek called him back, gave him a high position in gov't + he was really having the public's confidence when he just held Chiang there in Sian in order to force him to agree to certain things - to join with Russia + immediately fight Japan. Of General Chiang's 200 personal body guard 150 were killed in defending him but they were so outnumbered that Chiang gave up. For three days eating nothing in his captors hands for fear of being poisoned - then one of his own men cooked for him. It has been a marvelous experience - now that he is out - He surely is a credit to the Lord Jesus whom he loves - + the whole thing has brought glory to Christ + Christianity. Churches all over China were praying - some fasting - The first news left even his life as a question. It shows that the unified China - is much more unified than folks had fully realized. None of consequence - only one general in Kansu even expressed sympathy for Chang - messages, telegrams filled Nanking of assorted loyalty to central government. The wonderful personal love

6] + loyalty which Chiang has won from the people is most striking. Wholly voluntary + seemingly from no method at all on his part. Nothing at all of Hitler's + Mussolini's force. It is just since he has become such an earnest Christian. God is raising him up for China's sake + His own! His patience + forgiveness in dealing with all the kinds of factions that are in so great a country. It is said that one general he had all reason to put to death five or six times but each time he forgave him + reappointed him. Now he is a loyal follower! ~~It~~ surely is refreshing that in all of the turmoil of world's leaders to have old China — for centuries the closed rock — to have a leader who actually is trying to put the Lord's teaching into practise.

When he freed left Sian, Chang came in the same car to Loyang. Chiang with wonderful tact + courtesy — rode with Chang in the same car from the plane to his house + entertained Chang there + shared a room with him! The feeling has been so high against Chang that without this it may have been no little thing to protect him.

Funny, as soon as we knew on Sunday of his capture — I sent a telegram to Mme. Chiang — that we were praying + to read Isa 41:10. Soon a rumor went around that I had had a telegram from her + that Chiang was safe. Folks called

7] on phone + in person to see whether it was true!! The rumor must have gone out in a very few minutes but it went wide!

I'm surely outdoing myself - to be up so late - nine o'clock — I've been getting to bed early in order to be able for the days demands! How wonderful God has been to give me such good health during all of this illness! Tonight tho there is a watch party at 9:30 at Lydia Reich's (Lutheran nurse in hospital here to which I'm invited but am pretty sleepy already - I've moved up in the third floor now + it is a nice cozy room, heated by a tall drum thru which the kitchen flue goes. The stovepipe goes from kitchen up thru bathroom + is all the heat I have there, + on up to this third floor room. guess I get my money's worth of the coal! Good nite - hope I can wake up by dressing - otherwise I'll be hopeless!

Jan 1, 1937. That's the first time I've written that Happy New Year!! The party was nice - we sang + since I was the best musician there I had the fun of a piano. Then had sandwiches, pickles, olives, cocoa - ice cream + cake + just a good time. Now have out to the dedication of the new church at Ssu Fang this A.M. went a little after nine + now am waiting for dinner

8] So-may be called any minute! Well the
boxes arrived safely – Went I went for
them they wanted 5.00 duty – Edith's box
of candy was there too – I was amazed +
protested very politely. They finally said
maybe they were overvalued + cut it down
to 2.87 + cut off the evaluation on the
old things. It isn't so essential to value
everything to write it down, what articles are is all right
+ write on gifts
They told me at Treasurer's office it was
all right to declare the wholesale price,
not market price. I could laugh at his explan-
ation — He said "they're maybe put on a large
valuation to make the gifts seem more"!
I laughed inside of me! I knew that you
were just afraid of not living honest.
The shoes fit all right – I'll either get
full good of them or see that someone else
who may be in greater need does! Gloves
are a bit small – fear I'll ruin them
to wear them – I was needing, not just
wanted some gloves so
desperately, but Santa brought
I was glad to see them – but Santa brought
me another pair, larger so I'll give
these to the German girl, Amy Hausman
who gave me the other gloves. Such
fragrant + nice soap, bloomers,
toothpaste, mending cotton, etc –
Mother I left your last package
to have on the tree + those lovely

9] towels! Did you go to all of that trouble!! They are so nice, too nice to use tho as towels. I guess this cook wouldn't appreciate them! Such a lot of trouble & work! They were surely a surprise. Miss Fan & Miss Huo asked me to be sure to thank you for them! I gave Hsin Tzu some of the tooth paste too & shared soap too with the girls! They all sent their thanks.

No holly as yet so I guess it doesn't pass regulations. I had some china mistletoe in place of it in the window. It hasn't done anything tho Roy — don't get excited!

Yes, Mumsie mine we're such an abundance of blessings! Sometimes I just feel as if I shouldn't when so many haven't. After all possessions if are used to His glory, then ~~they~~ are justified! Glad twins have cornets! Fine too to be cheer leaders!

We've had such mild weather here — but I've had a little stove put up in the bed room — so Miss Fan has a nice cozy place to recuperate. She's better but oh such a slow siege! She's getting up a little bit now but back & intestines still ache a lot.

I have been going out to a village near the summer cottages. Miss Huo has lived there & I've gone almost every day. Feel like a plutocrat for sure to step

10$ in a taxi to go itinerating + back! It has been a necessary expense + I believe worth it!

Last Sunday was such a joy! I have been meeting in a borrowed room + gradually new Christians came + Christians for some years without a church to attend + others just backslidden + left the church. On Sunday two others came (after we were able to get a five-room house on a main road + had had Christmas there + hung up a big blue sign on which are printed "Today is Sunday" Church of Christ in China"). Sunday 10 adults were baptized + 7 children dedicated + the first communion held there in the little church. It has been like corn-popping. A woman came in quite confidently + hunted a seat - I thought more confident than those non-Christians who come for the first time - later saw her singing "Jesus Loves Me" with such vim. She said Oh yes I've been baptized many years but I've a non-Christian husband + have such a weight of sin that I'll not take communion today. Some folks (family + 2 children) just back from Russia were baptized. He said he'd long wanted to believe but ~~had~~ never had a chance. In Russia he'd only heard ~~that~~ Christianity was bad but he still had wanted to believe.

ll Mon. A.M. when I went Mr. + Mrs Bradley from Chicago went to visit + they each made a speech + seemed to enjoy it. At the end she just suddenly said "I'll empty my purse for the new church" — It had $28.20 so they have that much to help on it. A woman baptized for 15 years had never definitely had a real experience of Christ —— in confession of sin + real surrender + obedience to Him. That came to her in these few days ~~+~~ my she didn't look like the same person, afterward! That little group are a joy.

Tues A.M. a well-dressed man carrying a new Bible entered. I ask him if he were a Christian" he said, "No, I've never had a chance to believe but I've wanted to. Now I want to become a Christian!" So these days have been a great joy. The evangelist's wife too said I've gone to church 20 years but never knew what it was all about — not realizing that she has sin — I mean that conviction of sin not in general but specific! She too came to really know the Master. What a difference there is in mental recognition of Jesus and heart intimacy with him.

Please tell me who Ruth Swinney is at Roseburg. Old or young?. She said another check — $20.00 — money order — No news yet how she wants it used but

[?] there may be later. $1.66 from those children in Canada for the Wang Chia Lain children. Letter from B. F. Eddy of receipt of my letter — a number of Woodlawn letters all in one + host of cards. God is so good. There's an organ, folding one that is on market out here — 70.00 Mex — German make — put in wood from out here. Van Hemmi's bought one + it is lovely! I'm just about ready to get one with that 66. from Miss Swinney. The question is how much I will take it — heavy + more or less needing smooth roads — just since a new hymnal + many of the songs are new + I wish often for one. Well I'll see.

My! oh! I surely do hope there will be no war! How I'd hate Bud to go! What good is there in it all anyway, No evils are ever settled only increased — beside the sin of hatred + killing + suffering of innocent. Thanks so all for your wonderful gifts + love. If you happen to see sales on stockings silk ones that are good — I find my supply is nearly done — so rotten they break into holes — Don't buy any — but just if you happen on sales etc — whatever color is stylish —

Must close now + write later
Much love to all + thanks +
God keep you — As ever — Irene